

**Mission for the month – Church Pastoral Aid Society
Ventures and Falcon Holidays**

The overall leaders of all the Falcon Holidays are meeting for a conference on Friday 7th-Saturday 8th February. They will be joined by speakers from *Home for Good* - a charity dedicated to finding a home for every child who needs one by co-ordinating people, churches and local movements across the UK. The training will focus on creating a great holiday experience for adopted and looked after children (ie those who are in the care of a local authority or foster family).

Pray for:

- the conference - that it will prepare leaders spiritually for their leadership role
- all the overall leaders, especially those leading for the first time
- the recruitment of volunteer leaders for all the planned holidays
- the promotion of Falcon holidays among children living in challenging circumstances.
- School Ventures taking place this term
- all the Ventures and Falcon Holidays to be fully booked
- all children growing up in disadvantaged circumstances.

Vicar's Comment

'The joy of the Lord is your strength'. So says Nehemiah to the returnee Jews in 8:10 (NIV) of the book which bears his name. Where do you draw strength from? The temptation might be to think that the simple pattern of rest / work / rest / work is applicable to the life of following Jesus, but when you think that ALL of life - including our rest - is part of the Christian life, you can sense it's not that straightforward! Instead, maybe think of this: have you experienced that sense that when something excites you, it energises you? You could be feeling a bit tired, but a kick-about in the park might well 'pick you up' for the rest of the day. Nehemiah tells us here that our strength for serving God comes out of our joy in Him. So, if you feel like you're flagging following Jesus this year, don't think that stopping following for a little while is the answer - instead pursue Him, ask Him to give you joy through his Holy Spirit, ask Him to excite you, so that you can be energised for his work!!!!

St Christopher's Church

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Memory Verse

You are the light of the world

Matthew 5:14 (NIV)

February 2020